crimes reported in trains over Indian Railways during the year 2006 as compared to the previous year 2005.

During the year 2006, in all 7,505 cases of crime were reported in trains as against 7,980 such cases reported during the previous year *i.e.* 2005.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Poverty, unemployment and loopholes in criminal justice system are the main socio-economic factors responsible for crime whether it is in the trains or in the hinter land.

(d) To prevent such offences Special Squads have been constituted in some Zonal Railways with women ticket checking staff (wherever available), women staff of Railway Protection Force and/or Government Railway Police. The ladies compartments in affected sections are also being escorted by armed police personnel during night. A total number of 63,282 male persons found travelling in ladies compartments were apprehended and prosecuted by Railway Protection Force under the Railways Act during the year 2006.

Upgradation of stations

2085. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to improving the facilities at the railway stations, the Centre has embarked on a plan to modernize and upgrade the stations to world class; and

(b) if so, the details in the this regard, with projected cost, source of funding and targeted schedule for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far 19 stations have been selected for developing them as World Class Station. These developments are planned on Public Private Partnership basis.

Doubling of Meerut-Tapsi rail track

2086. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling of Meerut-Tapsi railway track;